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Message Text

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70
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /087 W
---------- 011179
R 081606Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6290
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MEDIA REACTION FOLLOWING DISENGAGEMENT SIGNATURE

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (CAIRO 8649 AND 8756), EGYPTIAN MEDIA ARE CONCENTRATING FEATURE STORIES ON BENEFITS TO ARAB WORLD OF NEW SINAI AGREEMENT. FRONT PAGES HAVE BEEN DOMINTED BY NEWS AND COMMENTARIES RELATED TO THIS SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S DRAMATIC DEFENSE OF EGYPT'S POSITION IN HIS SEPTEMBER 4 SPEECH.

2. GOE PROGRAM OF EXPLANATION OF AGREEMENT TO EGYPTIAN AND ARAB PEOPLE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PROMINENT NOTICE IN LOCAL MEDIA. MINWAR GAMASY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS PICTURED IN SEPTEMBER 8 PAPERS
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LECTURING TO HIS FORCES ON MEANING OF AGREEMENT AND HOW IT WILL

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FURTHER STRATEGIC AIMS OF LIBERATING ARAB LAND AND RESTORING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. GAMASY HAS SPENT FIRST TWO DAYS OF RAMADAN WITH OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS IN SUEZ, PORT SAID AND ISMAILIA.

3. OVER THE WEEKEND, THERE HAS BEEN INTERESTING SHIFT IN FOCUS OF LEADING STORIES AND EDITORIALS. FOR PAST THREE DAYS ALL PAPERS HAVE REPORTED ON SERIES OF MEETINGS WHICH SADAT IS HOLDING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE "TO SET PLAN OF ACTION FOR CURRENT CRUCIAL STAGE." FIRST MEETING, HELD SEPTEMBER 7, INCLUDED VICE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER AND HEAD OF ASU. PRES IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH SUPREME COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES AND OTHER GROUPS. IMPLICATION OF THESE STORIES IS NOT SO MUCH THAT EGYPT IS CONTINUING ITS FIGHT FOR ARAB RIGHTS, BUT THAT WITH DISENGAGEMENT ON THE TRACKS, EGYPTIANS ARE NOW FREE TO GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR OWN SERIOUS DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES. AKHBAR EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 8 MAKES EXACTLY THIS POINT AND AHRAM'S BANNER FOR THE SAME DAY SAYS "SADAT STRESSES NECESSITY OF SPEEDY MEASURES TO SOLVE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS." WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT IS OF GREATER INTEREST TO MOST EGYPTIANS THAN REGAINING PALESTINE FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND THAT THIS "BUSINESS AS USUAL AT LAST" LEAD FROM THE TOP LEVEL OF THE GOE WILL BE WELCOMED.

4. ON INTERNATIONAL PLANE, SOVIETS CONTINUE TO ESCAPE CONCENTRATED EDITORIAL CHASTISEMENT (THOUGH MUSA SABRI AUTHORED AN ANTI-SOVIET BLAST SEPT 7). FAHMY GAVE REASONED AND DETAILED EXPLANATION OF AGREEMENT TO BEIRUT MAGAZINE (SEPTEL)
WITHOUT ATTACKING SOVIETS. ARAB CRITICS GOT OFF LESS EASILY.
SADAT HAS APPARENTLY GIVEN INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI DAILY AL-SIYASA, BUT THE TEXT HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED HERE.

5. MAIN LINES OF GOE OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO CRITICISM CONTINUE TO BE THAT AGREEMENT IS PURELY MILITARY, IS NOT INTENDED AS PEACE TREATY, DOES NOT MEAN EGYPT WILL STAND IDLY BY IF ARAB BROTHERS ARE ATTACKED, DOES NOT LICENSE ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPERIALIST BASE IN ME, AND IN NO WAY IMPLIES THAT EGYPT HAS GIVEN UP ITS BASIC COMMITMENTS TO SEEK TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE. ALL GOE COMMENTATORS ON AGREEMENT HAVE TAKEN CARE TO POINT OUT THAT EGYPT EXPECTS MOVEMENT ON GOLAN SOON, AND FAHMY WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY CONTACTS
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ON THE SUBJECT WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER.

6. COMMENT: SO FAR, NOT A SINGLE CRITICISM OF AGREEMENT HAS APPEARED IN EGYPTIAN PRESS. EVEN MARXIST ROSE AL-YUSUF HAS GIVEN LUKEWARM SUPPORT TO SADAT. HAND OF SUPREME PRESS COUNCIL IS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS UNANIMITY OF PRAISE FOR GOE, BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT PRESS IN GENERAL HAS HAD AGREEMENT RAMMED DOWN PUBLISHERS' THROATS. EXCEPT AMONG MARXISTS, AGREEMNT

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STILL SEEMS TO BE WELCOMED BY EGYPTIANS.

7. VOICE OF PALESTINE FROM EGYPT HAS ALSO REFRAINED FROM CRITICISM OF EGYPT DIRECTLY. HOWEVER, UNLIKE ANY OTHER RADIO STATION OR PUBLICATION ORIGINATING IN EGYPT, VOP CONTINUES ATTACK "US PLOTS" WHICH AIM AT ESTABLISHING MILITARY PRESENCE IN AREA TO EXPLOIT ME ECONOMY (SEPT 3).
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